

FORM B - BUILDING

Assessor's #
97-12

USGS Quad
Hanover

Area

Form #
34

Massachusetts Historical Commission
Massachusetts Archives Building
220 Morrissey Boulevard
Boston, Massachusetts 02125

Town Hanson

Place

Address 37 Brook Street

Historic Name Bowker House

Use: Present residence

Original residence

Date 1830-1856

Source maps & White's Houses

Style/Form Greek Revival/end house

Architect N/A

Exterior Material:

Foundation granite

Wall/Trim clapboard

Roof asphalt

Outbuildings none

Major Alterations none

Condition excellent

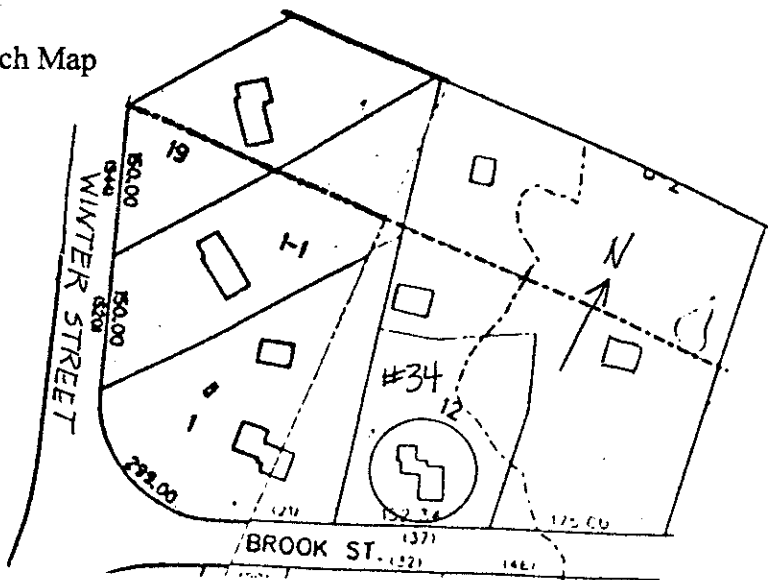
Moved no

Acreage 30,000 sq. ft.

Setting rural & suburban residential



Sketch Map



Recorded by Dempsey/Driemeyer

Organization Hanson Historical
Commission

Date April 1996

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

The Bowker House at 37 Brook Street is a well-preserved, modest, one-and-one-half story end house in the Greek Revival style. This type of house was generally popular beginning in the second-quarter of the nineteenth century throughout New England but in Hanson the popularity of the various gable-block forms apparently postponed the wholesale adoption of the end house. The interior space of this three-bay wide by two-pile deep gabled mass is augmented by a one-story gabled wing located on the left-side elevation before the first bay. Characteristic of the Greek Revival style, classically derived detailing is used to accent door openings, the corners and the cornice line. The most distinctive decorative component on this house is the overscaled door surround. The left-side entry is framed by an exaggerated entablature, molded Tuscan pilasters and side lights. Other characteristic detailing includes wide corner boards capped to suggest Tuscan capitals and wide entablature. A one-story, glass-enclosed room has been added to the rear of the wing and a small, shed-roofed addition extends from the rear elevation. The original rural residential setting has been infringed upon with the recent addition of several contemporary houses.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

Until well into the twentieth century Brook Street and much of the northeast section of Hanson remained largely rural with houses scattered along the primary arteries. Historic maps indicate the Bowker House dates to the period 1830-1856. At the time of the house's construction it was only the second house built on Brook Street between Winter Street and Indian Head Brook and remained so until the twentieth century. The house was built by Turner Bowker, the son of Benjamin F. Bowker who ran a hotel in the nearby building at the corner of Brook and Winter streets. By 1879 the property was owned by Mrs. George Jackman and twenty-four years later the property belonged to the estate of James Webb. At that time a barn was located behind the house. According to Joseph White the house was occupied by Eben Bourne after the Jackmans and by the early 1930s Andrew Thompson owned the house.

REFERENCES

- Smith, Plan of Hanson, 1830
- Walling, Map of Hanson, 1856
- Walker, Atlas of Plymouth County, 1879
- Richards, Atlas of Plymouth County, 1903
- White, Houses of Hanson
- Town of Hanson Valuation Lists, 1834, 1856, 1879, 1903

✓ Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. See NR Criteria Statement form.

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Community
Hanson

Property Address
37 Brook Street

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National Register of Historic Places Criteria Statement Form



Check all that apply:

☒ Individually eligible.

☐ Contributing to a potential district.

☐ Eligible only in a historic district.

☐ Potential historic district.

Criteria: ☒ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D

Criteria Considerations: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Statement of Significance by **Dempsey/Driemeyer**.

This property is significant as a well-preserved example of early building patterns in the town of Hanson, in a settlement configuration distinctive to the town and probably the region. Among the best examples of its type in town, it may be individually eligible but should be evaluated for its role in potential districts when its neighbors can be examined more carefully. The property meets criteria A and C at the local level and retains integrity of location, setting, design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.